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HOOK AND LOOP SYSTEM FOR ATTACHING A BREAST FORM PROSTHESES TO GARMENTS WITH BUILT-IN CUPS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of U.S. application No. 08/814,508
filed March 10, 1997.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

15 The invention relates in general to a breast prosthesis and in particular
to a hook and loop system for attaching a breast form prosthesis to
conventional bras and all other garments with built-in bust cups.

Prior Art

20 Methods presently available for wearing a breast form prosthesis are
awkward and unnatural. The mastectomy bras available have pockets sewn
in both cups thereby making the cup for the natural breast smaller, giving an
uncomfortable fit due to the excess material. The excess material in
mastectomy bras also makes the natural breast appear lumpy thereby making
clothing such as jerseys, sweaters and dress blouses appear unsightly.

25 Another breast form prosthesis presently available adheres directly to
the skin which causes skin irritation. It is difficult to measure and adhere it to
the skin in the proper position and it detaches easily when perspiring under
normal daily activities and activities such as swimming.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The above-discussed and other drawbacks and deficiencies of the prior art are overcome or alleviated by the hook and loop system for attaching a breast form prosthesis to garments with built-in bust cups of the present invention. A breast form prosthesis has hook material attached to both front and back surfaces. A bust cup has loop material attached to the inside edges of the bust cup. A comfort pad is constructed of moisture absorbing material and is placed on the back of the prosthesis to absorb perspiration and reduce skin irritation.

The above-discussed and other features and advantages of the present invention will be appreciated and understood by those skilled in the art from the following detailed description and drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring now to the drawings wherein like elements are numbered alike in the several figures:

Figure 1 is a front view of the prosthesis;

Figure 2 is a rear view of the prosthesis;

Figure 3 is rear view of a bust cup;

Figure 4 is a front view of a comfort pad; and

Figure 5 is an exploded cross sectional view of the assembly of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1 is a front view of the breast prosthesis 10 and is distinguished from the rear view shown in Figure 2 by inclusion of a nipple area 12 typically found in a breast prosthesis. Hook material 1 is applied to the front surface of the breast prosthesis 10 near the edges of the prosthesis. As shown in Figure 1, the hook material 1 is a strip having a length greater than its width and is positioned along the periphery of the prosthesis. Figure 2 is a rear view of the

prosthesis 10. As shown in Figure 2, the back edges of prosthesis 10 include hook material 1. As shown in Figure 2, the hook material 1 is a strip having a length greater than its width and is positioned along the periphery of the prosthesis.

5 Figure 3 is a rear view of a bust cup 30. Loop material 2 is attached (e.g., sewn) to the inside edges of bust cup 30 as shown in Figure 3. Loop material 2 is provided in two strips each having a length greater than its width and positioned along the periphery of the bust cup 30. The loop material 2 on the inside of the bust cup 30 is positioned to engage the hook material 1 on the front surface of prosthesis 10. Figure 4 is a front view of a comfort pad 20 which is placed against hook material 1 on back of prosthesis 10 (shown in Figure 2). The comfort pad 20 provides a detachable backing for the prosthesis which is made of moisture absorbing material that can easily be removed and laundered.

10 15 Figure 5 is an exploded cross-sectional view of the assembly of the present invention. The prosthesis 10 is placed in bust cup 30 so that hook material 1 on the front of prosthesis 10 engages loop material 2 on the inside of bust cup 30. The comfort pad 40 is placed against the rear of prosthesis 10 and is secured to the prosthesis 10 through hook material 1 on the rear of prosthesis 10.

20 25 The present invention provides an improvement by which a mastectomy prosthesis can be worn in a conventional bra or garments with bust cups rather than mastectomy bras and other pocketed type garments thereby enabling the wearer to appear more natural and to feel more comfortable and secure.

30 While preferred embodiments have been shown and described, various modifications and substitutions may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, it is to be understood that the present invention has been described by way of illustration and not limitation.